

HISTORICAL REPRINTS

THE JOURNAL OF FRANCOIS ANTOINE LAROCQUE

from the Assiniboine River to the Yellowstone—1805

Translated and Edited by RUTH HAZLITT

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NOTE: In 1911 there appeared in the Publications of the Canadian Archives the *Journal de Larocque*, edited by L. J. Burpee. This Journal was printed in French and the edition has become extremely rare. It is of such interest, however, that the editor feels warranted in offering an English translation.

Larocque's expedition of 1805 was undertaken by the orders of the Northwest Company of Canada to open up a fur trade with the Indians of the Rocky Mountains. His party entered the United States near the source of the Souris River, about midway between the east and west boundaries of the present North Dakota, and traveled south to the Missouri. From there it moved southwest to the Yellowstone, and an extensive trade for beaver was begun.

As early as 1806 there was planned a two-volume work to be entitled "History of the Northwest Company, containing the likeness between ancient and modern peoples, by Roderick McKenzie director of this company . . ." In pursuance of this object, he sent circular letters to the partners and clerks of the Northwest Company asking them to send him all the information they could collect regarding their trade with the natives. Mr. McKenzie did not write his book and the letters and journals sent to him became the property of Senator Masson. The latter used part of this material in the *Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest*. After Senator Masson's death the documents were sold at auction, part being awarded to the Bureau of the Canadian Archives and part to McGill University.

Among the journals sent to Roderick McKenzie were those of Francois Antoine Larocque and Charles Mackenzie, clerks of the Northwest Company. Larocque in his *Missouri Journal*, 1804-1805, and Charles Mackenzie in his *Missouri Indians*, describe parts of their first expedition of which Larocque was in command. A second expedition to the Mandan country, again led by Larocque, was referred to by Mackenzie in his "Second Expedition." No account of this by Larocque was ever found. In his "Third Expedition, 1805," Mackenzie alluded to a journal by Larocque, the original of which is still missing.

A copy of the latter, however, was found in Laval University. It is thought by Mr. Burpee to be an exact transcription of the original. Mackenzie went with Larocque only as far as the Mandan and Minnetaree villages. Larocque's Journal is the record of the remainder of the trip to the Yellowstone, the first visit of the whites to the Crows.

Very little is known of Larocque's life. According to Masson's account, he was a brother of Joseph Larocque who held an important office in the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies. "Mr. F. A. Larocque," Masson says, "was endowed with great abilities and that he was a very brave and energetic man. He had read much, was studious, and knew the French and English languages in the same degree but decidedly preferred the latter." Not being greatly attracted by a trader's life, he left the Northwest and engaged in trade in Montreal. Unfortunately in business he turned to study and died at an advanced age in the Convent of Grey at Saint-Hyacinth.

Departure from the Assiniboine River, June 2, 1805

FROM my arrival at the "River Fort de la Bosse," I shall prepare to undertake a journey of discovery to the Rocky Mountains.¹ I left June 2, with two men; each of us had two horses, one of which was loaded with goods in order to facilitate relations with the savages that we might meet. Mr. Charles McKenzie and Mr. Lassana set out on the road with me in order

to spend the summer on the Missouri and as we were going in the same direction, they accompanied me as far as the Big Belly Village.²

Mr. McKenzie and the other men were on the way at about two o'clock in the afternoon, but as I had been so occupied that I had not yet been able to give the news to my friends, I remained in order to write some letters and to bring order to some personal business. After the setting of the

¹ The "River Fort de la Bosse" was a trading post of the Northwest Company located at the Assiniboine river.

² McKenzie was a clerk of the Northwest Company. In 1804 and again in 1805 he accompanied Larocque on an expedition to the Mandans; made a third expedition to the Mandan villages in the fall of 1805 and a fourth in 1806.

sun the evening meal was served, after which taking leave of Mr. Chabelly and Mr. Henry and some others we resumed our way.³ Our departure impressed everybody for it seemed more than likely that my men and I would not return. I must confess that I had a heavy heart at leaving the fort but as we went fast my cheerfulness soon returned and I thought only of the means to take to assure the success of my enterprise.

At ten o'clock we reached the Plum river where I found those who were camped there plunged in sleep.

Monday 3. I set out early in the morning; at noon I halted to allow the horses to rest. We encamped that evening on the Mouse [Souris] river, where we were scarcely two hours when three Assiniboines followed a little after by many others, rushed on our side, some tried to take away our horses, but when they saw our rifles and ascertained that we deepened about them, they disappeared. Later they approached our fire and after reporting that we were well armed and that we were well prepared to defend our persons and our property, they became peaceable. At less than ten acres from our camp were forty of their tents that we had not seen. I made a gift of a brace of tobacco to their chief so that he could allow his young men to smoke and I induced them to remain peaceable.

Some proposed to accompany us as far as the Missouri but after having replied that their proposition was agreeable to us, they spoke of it no more.

Nevertheless, believing that it was not prudent to spend the night so near their tents, we saddled our horses and set out in spite of their efforts to induce us to spend the night under their tents. One of them guided us to a good ford of the Mouse river which we crossed in order to enter then into the plain. We traveled all night in order to escape their attack for they are the most clever horse thieves of which I have heard. A little before the day we stopped to take a little rest.

Tuesday 4. We set out early in the morning, we enjoyed a good temperature the

whole day and in the evening we encamped on the banks of the Mouse river at a place called Green river, because there was no forest either on one side or on the other for a distance of thirty miles. With the exception of four caribou of which two were slaughtered we have not encountered any other animal.

Wednesday 5. We followed the course of the Green river until eleven o'clock, then as we reached the timber and as the weather was rainy, we decided to camp. There were not any buffalo in sight. At noon it began to rain and it rained abundantly and without interruption until the next morning. There were many wild birds here, ducks, bustards, geese, swans, etc., and we killed a great number of them.

Thursday, 6. As the weather seemed to grow fine we set out on the way and we traveled about three miles, then the weather becoming cloudy we stopped to encamp but before we were able to put our goods in the shelter, it began to rain again and the rain fell in so great an abundance that in the space of several hours all the lower parts of the plain were submerged and all the brooks became rivers. There were a large number of buffalo and in the evening, the rain having ceased, a very fat young male was slaughtered as well as a deer. Night came, it commenced to rain again and the rain fell without interruption until morning.

Friday, 7. The weather has kept cloudy but the sun appearing for a time, we hoped that the weather was going to become fine and we set out on the route. But at noon it began to rain as yesterday and at two o'clock having found some wood under some hillocks of sand in the plain, we stopped, completely soaked, to cook some food. As there was not any water at this place we raised up a piece of bark from an elm of which one of the ends was let down in a copper boiler in a way to collect entirely in this vessel the water that ran down the length of the tree trunk and of which we had an amount sufficient for the time. Then we manufactured a tent with some bark and we passed a comfortable enough night.

³ Charles Jean-Baptiste Chaboillez was the trader or partner in charge of the administration of the Red River or Assiniboine department. Henry is Alexander Henry the Younger.

Saturday, 8. We set out on the road to reach an elevation called "Great Butte" in order to dry our goods and water our horses, considering that there was not any water here. We arrived at this place at half past two, and we spent the rest of the day and the night there. The Great Butte is a lofty mountain that may be seen from all sides from a distance of twenty miles. Below, upon the north side, is a lake eight miles in circumference in which there are some medium-sized pike. Between the lake and the mountain is a wood, partly of elm, and in the neighborhood are seen many lakes which, since the last rains, communicate with each other. From the top of the mountain one can see the Turtle mountain upon the north side, as well as the Mouse river upon the north-northeast and upon the south-southwest, in fact one sees this from all sides of the mountain except from the west.⁴

Sunday, 9. We set out on the way early in the morning in the direction of south-southwest and at one o'clock in the afternoon we reached the Mouse river. The level of this being very high, we manufactured a raft to carry our goods to the other side and the horses crossed the river by swimming. We put ourselves in the saddle immediately and camped in a coulee about four miles from the river.

Monday, 10. After leaving this last place we went on to repose in the Mandan plain. We saw buffalo in all directions but we dared not fire upon them for we were upon the hostile ground of the Sioux. It rained a little during the night.

Tuesday, 11. At eight o'clock in the morning I saw the banks of the Missouri and at noon we reached the Bourbeuse river. At this place the horses were unsaddled and unloaded and as the depth of the water did not go beyond two feet, we carried our goods upon our shoulders but we sank in the mud as far as the waist, then the horses sank in the mud and it was with difficulty that we succeeded in making them cross the opposite bank as muddy as the bed of the river. We intended to reach the village today, but we were stopped by a shower and

encamped in a ravine at the "Loge de Serpent," a village situated at the angle of the river where the Big Bellies [Gros Ventres] used to winter; it is there that I spent a part of the winter. I thought proper not to make known to the savages of the village the goods that I had in my possession for fear that the Big Bellies would not help me by leading me to the Rocky mountains. Also, I had brought here only a small part of the articles required for the unavoidable outlays.

Wednesday, 12. At nine o'clock in the morning we reached the banks of the Missouri where we fired some shots to inform the savages of our arrival. A few hours later a large number from among them came in canoes to cross us over with our goods. Lafrance went to the home of the Mandans but I remained with my men and Mr. McKenzie, afterwards we crossed over to visit the Big Bellies where we went into the various cabins; each of my men was supplied with a small quantity of knives, tobacco, and ammunition that he was to distribute to the proprietors.

Thursday, 13. Four Assiniboines arrived in the evening and four Canadians who make the hunting of beaver in these parts their profession, came to see me. I distributed to each of them six inches of tobacco (Brazil) which they accepted with a great deal of joy, for during many months they had smoked only tobacco prepared by the savages.

Friday, 14. The savages here are extremely desirous of selling us their horses but with the amount that it is usually necessary to pay them for one, we could buy two from the Rocky mountain savages who have waited for us from day to day. They wish also that we may have a very large quantity of goods at the arrival of the expected savages so that they may benefit from all the trade. I made them understand that the purpose of our trip was to buy horses neither of them nor in the Rocky mountains, that we came to procure skins and furs and that for this reason, one of us would pass the summer with them and another with the Mandans; and further, that I had been sent

⁴ Camp was in the east bend of the Souris river in the present North Dakota, northeast of the present city of Minot.

with two men by the chief of the white population to smoke the pipe of peace and friendship with the Rocky mountain savages and to accompany them as far as their country in order to explore it and take account of whether there were beavers there as had been related, in order to induce them to hunt; that we would not buy horses of anyone and that, as a result, the best course that they could take was to prepare some buffalo skins in order to procure some ammunition to trade with the Rocky mountain savages.⁵

They pretended that they had reason to fear the neighboring nations which comprised the Assiniboines, the Sioux, the Cheyennes, and the Ricaras, in order to give a pretext for not trading their guns with the Rocky mountain savages and invited us to do as much for them. Some of these Rocky mountain savages have already come here and have set out again but we are waiting for a larger number of them which I intend to accompany.

Saturday, 15. One of the chiefs asked for me and wanted to know what I intended to do with the pipe that I had brought. After having informed him that this object was reserved for the Rocky mountain savages, he addressed a long harangue to me to dissuade me from going to the home of the last. He told me that I should be obliged to spend the winter there because of the great distance to travel, that the Cheyennes and the Ricaras were enemies constantly on the watch and that probably they would kill me. He spoke to me then in a very unfavorable way of the Rocky mountain savages, and to prove that these were liars and thieves, he told me that a Canadian named Menard—who lived here about four years, was sent several years ago to trade in horses and beavers with the Rocky mountains, that they did everything to dissuade him but that seeing his irrevocable determination they let him set out; that once arrived at the tents of the Rocky mountain savages, he had been well received and had procured nine horses, two women slaves, and a certain amount of beaver, after which he left the place well

satisfied; that at length several young men followed him and stole seven horses from him during the night, that several nights after the two slaves deserted with the other horses, that some other young men rejoined him and took away all that he possessed, even his knife; that he returned weeping to the village of the Big Bellies, nearly dead, having only his cover to make himself (with the aid of a flintlock) some shoes that he attached to his feet with cords, that the Big Bellies were so indignant that they killed several Rocky mountains to revenge him, etc., etc.⁶ He gave me portions of many other deeds and to this I answered that my chief having sent me, I would go there or I would die.

Five young men went to meet the Rocky mountain savages a week ago; we wait for them from day to day with these last.

Sunday, 16. The women danced this evening in honor of the scalp of a savage Blackfoot, who was killed last spring. The Canadians coming from below reported that these savages had also killed several whites at the same time, that they had seen some clothing such as jackets, and trousers of velvet, shirt collars, pieces of canvas tents, some vests and many other objects which have belonged to whites. The great chief of this plundering, Borgne, told me that a detachment of war fired upon some men who were descending a very large river in canoes made of skins, that these had been killed but that he could not say whether these were Crees, Chippewas, or whites. I questioned on this subject the old Cerina Grape, the father of the chief of this detachment and the chief himself and they called to witness the fire, the sky and the earth that these were not whites. They described the region that they had crossed and in my opinion, this was some part in the neighborhood of the Saskatchewan or of its tributaries. They showed me a part of what they had stolen and with the exception of a half cask of powder and at least two hundred bullets, I saw nothing which could prove that those who had been killed were whites. What they took had been shared among all the warriors and their par-

⁵ The "chief of the white population" was Chaboulleux.

⁶ "Probably the same Menard that Alexander Henry mentions as having been seized and murdered by three Assiniboines in 1803 when returning to the Missouri." L. J. Burpee.

ents. Among the objects that the old Cerina Grape showed me was a garment made with the skin of a young horse and wrought with porcupine quills and hairs; two skins of skunks trimmed with red bands and blue beads such as these savages usually wore around the wrist; a Ketland musket, a Barnett gun and finally a scalp arising evidently from a savage. Nevertheless I really believe that they killed some whites in the neighborhood of the fort of the Prairies for they have carried back more goods than I have yet seen in the possession of the savages at a given time.⁷

Monday, 17. I came down to the Mandan village on horseback; at this place I bought a saddle for which I gave thirty pounds of ammunition and I asked Lafrance to procure me some provisions for my voyage for there was not any corn where I stopped.⁸ I returned to my hut and in the evening I settled an account with one named Jusseaux who was indebted to the company.⁹

Tuesday, 18. The son of White Wolf had a fall from a horse and has a terrible wound in the leg; the skin has been completely removed from the ankle bone up to the calf. The savage healer was required and he began to blow upon the wound and to sing in order to cure him while the child suffered patiently. Tempest accompanied by thunder.

Wednesday, 19. As there was another sick person in my cabin and since they made much uproar and tumult with the method of conjuring and chanting, I went toward another cabin where I had installed one of my men. I went to see Borgne, our chief, and as I desired to have him on our side in case of need, I made a present to him of three-fourths of a pound of tobacco, a knife, and fifty charges of ammunition, which gave him great pleasure. He is the greatest chief of this place and he does not seek like the other chiefs to dissuade us from going to the Rocky mountains. Rain and thunder in the evening.

Thursday, 20. Some of the chiefs have again tried to make me buy some horses

and one told me that the Big Bellies were not all of the same opinion and that he did not know if they would permit me to go to the Rocky mountains. They had refuge with all their address in a long harangue to make me renounce my design; they showed me that the journey was dangerous to the greatest degree, that the Rocky mountains would not come because they feared the Ricaras and the Assiniboines. I could answer to all this only by signs for there was no one at the time to speak their tongue; one of my men named Souci spoke Sioux but no one understood this tongue.¹⁰ At about noon, two young Big Bellies who had gone to meet some Rocky mountains arrived and we learned that they had left the Rocky mountain savages in the morning and that these last would be here in three or four days. Upon learning this news, the chief pretended that he had been informed that the Crees and the Assiniboines had reunited to come to attack the Rocky mountains (which was false) and some harangues were delivered to induce the population to preserve their guns and ammunition, to not trade with the Rocky mountain savages, etc. I believe that is only a stratagem to make me give up my trip for they do not like to own openly that such is their purpose; in fact they persist always in saying that they have two ways of seeing which means that they do not know yet which side to take.

Friday, 21. I went to see Borgne in order to know what he and the Big Bellies thought of our trip to the Rocky mountains and if they intended to prevent us from making it. He answered my demand by declaring to me that the Rocky mountains were good people and that they had many beavers in their possession; more, that his adopted son, one of the Rocky mountain chiefs and the greatest of these chiefs, would take care of us, for he would recommend for him to give his affection to the whites and watch over them. I replied to him that the Big Bellies had no reason to be discontented since one of us would remain among them with a great

⁷ This was a Northwest Company post near the forks of the Saskatchewan.

⁸ Baptiste Lafrance was a clerk of the Northwest Company.

⁹ Jusseaux was an independent trader in the Missouri region, according to Masson. He was guide and interpreter for David Thompson on his trip in 1797.

¹⁰ Pierre Soucie is listed by Masson as a trader in the department of the Upper Red River.

quantity of ammunition, of knives, of tobacco, of hatchets and other articles would be sent back to them in case of need each time that they would be disposed to make some exchanges. He said that it was true and no one would do us harm. He is the only chief who speaks in this way but as he exercises more authority than the others, it may be, I hope, that with his protection we can set out. One way of overcoming all difficulty would consist in assembling the chiefs, making them a present of tobacco and ammunition; making them smoke and by doing for them part of what I could do for them in the future. I do not wish to have recourse to this method without being absolutely obliged for to assemble a council and deliver a harangue without making presents would be worth no more than addressing the words to a heap of stones. Moreover I fear that too great liberality at the time of our first visit to these peoples does not give a footing with the Big Bellies and only encourages them to become each time more exacting when we come back to these places if measures are taken to trade there. And if we spend this time without making them a present I believe that we would surmount the difficulty for always. If Borgne still exercises the authority that he had formerly, he will be able by himself to save us from embarrassment and he appears to be our sincere friend.

Saturday, 22. I went first to the tent of a savage whose two sons had made part of the expedition that had killed the whites on the Saskatchewan. He made a complete recital of what had happened and apparently with more frankness than any other. He told me that there were four tents out of cloth and four others out of leather on the banks of the river where some canoes were; that they had fired on the largest tent out of leather and had killed three men of whom two were savages and that without being able to prove it, they had thought that the third was a white. They had procured a scalp and if it is that which I saw, it came from a savage. There were many tents of all kinds without counting the goods. What they could not carry with them they smashed and threw into the river.

Sunday, 23. Three men and a woman belonging to the Rocky mountains arrived about noon; the others should arrive today if it does not rain this evening.

During the evening I went to see the brother of Borgne where I met two Rocky mountain savages of which one was the chief already mentioned by Borgne. After having smoked with them a few moments Borgne told them that I was going to accompany them and spoke greatly in my praise. They appeared very satisfied.

Monday, 24. Lafrance and the other whites who resided lower with the Mandans came to see those of the Rocky mountains who had arrived; the others had been hindered by the bad weather. It thundered during the whole day but did not rain. I made a gift of a knife to my hostess.

Tuesday, 25. At about one o'clock in the afternoon the Rocky mountain savages arrived and camped not far from the village with their warriors who included six hundred and forty-five men. They traveled through the village on horseback, armed with shields and other implements of war, went to the little village, then to the home of the Souliers and the home of the Mandans, and returned to their camp. Not twenty people remained in the village; men, women and children went to the camp of the recently arrived carrying with them some maize, uncooked and boiled, which they exchanged for leggings, covers, and dried meat. There were twenty huts of Snakes savages and about forty men. The other bands are more numerous.

This morning, Borgne sent to find me and after having made me acquainted with the Rocky mountain chief of the Arikaras he informed the latter in my presence that I would accompany him and recommend to him to take good care of us, then he praised us greatly and told me that the Big Bellies did not know yet whether they would let us go or not but that we could set out if we wished because he would remove the difficulties if it was necessary. I gave two Arikaras each six (feet) of tobacco and twenty charges of ammunition.

Wednesday, 26. The Mandans, the Souliers, the population of the little village and

that of the Village mounted on horseback and went to make around the camp of the Rocky mountains the same displays that the latter made here today. They were about five hundred but a great number of warriors have left for the war.

Thursday, 27. I gathered together the chiefs of the different bands of the Rocky mountains and I made them a present of:

- 2 large hatchets
- 2 little hatchets
- 8 ivory combs
- 10 shell necklaces
- 8 tinder boxes and flintlocks
- 4 clubs
- 6 bunches of beads B. C.
- 4 armfuls of tobacco
- 8 cock feathers
- 16 large knives
- 12 little knives
- 2 lbs. of vermilion
- 8 dozen rings
- 4 packages of colored glass
- 4 dozen awls
- 1½ lb. of blue beads
- 2 dozen blue beads
- 1000 bullets and some gunpowder

I made them smoke a peace pipe that I had told them was that of the chief of the whites. I added that the last wished that they might become his children and his brothers, that he was not ignorant that they were to be pitied because they had not arms to defend themselves against their enemies, but that they would be no longer to be pitied as soon as they became brave hunters. I informed them that I would accompany them with two men to visit their lands, that we would furnish the articles of which they had need at the present time, that our chief sent them the objects that they had before them in order that they might listen with friendliness to the propositions that we had to make to them; that our chief hoped that they would treat all the whites as brothers because we were on a footing of peace and friendship with the Red-Skins, that we had no intention of scalps, that probably they would see on their lands some whites come from another place, but that the latter were our brothers and we hoped that they would not injure them, that they had robbed and

ill-treated a few years ago a white who had gone trading with them, that we were anxious to know how we would be received, that if their behavior in our regard was friendly and that if they killed beavers, otters, and bears, the whites would be in a few years on their lands to spend the winter and he would furnish them all that of which they had need, etc., etc. I told them many other things that I believed necessary and I ended my harangue by making them smoke the peace pipe. They thanked me and made me a present of six buffalo skins, one cougar skin, four shirts, two women's petticoats, two skins of prepared deer, three saddles and thirteen pair of gaiters. I then presented a dress to the chief of the Arikaras with a flag and a sash and I told them that our chief had sent only one dress for the latter because he did not know that we were going to encounter many nations, but during the summer we were going to choose a place advantageous for them all where we would establish a station to trade with them if we ascertain that they wish to encourage the whites to go on their lands by becoming good hunters and that then all their chiefs who conducted themselves well would receive a dress.

The ceremony of the adoption of the children took place at the same time but I was so busy that I was able to be witness only to the last half. So, my personal observations permit me to give of it only an account made incomplete and as the two nations were introduced, I shall perform this task at another time.

Friday, 28. I preferred to return to the cabin of Chief Arikaras in the evening in order to prepare myself to set out with him the following morning, but as all the chiefs had been called to a council of farewell, I could do nothing on this subject.

Saturday, 29. After having saddled our horses, we left the Big Bellies' village. We remained about a half hour at the camp of the Rocky mountains while the latter folded their tents, after which we all set out on the way. We followed the Knife river about a distance of eight miles when we halted and camped. Borgne and many other Big Bellies came to spend the night with us.

Sunday, 30. We traveled nearly four miles in a southerly direction when we halted to eat, then we went forward in the direction of south-southwest, and camped for the night. There where there were not any hills we could perceive at our right the Knife river at six miles distance. Storm accompanied by thunder in the evening.

Monday, July 1. We set out at eight o'clock in the morning and camped at noon after having traveled in the direction of southwest and having crossed three little streams of water which flow from north to northeast and empty into the Knife river. Rain began to fall immediately after the tents were set up and it rained during the whole day. The savages hunted and killed a few buffaloes. I made them a present of a few articles such as knives, beads for a necklace.

Tuesday, 2. We set out at nine o'clock and camped at two o'clock in the afternoon after having traveled in the direction of south. It thundered a great deal during the whole afternoon and at sunset there was a hail storm so violent that I have seen nothing similar before, the pieces of hail were of the size of the yolk of a hen's egg and some were as large as the egg even; they fell with such violence that many tents were overturned. The wind was in the west during the tornado, then it turned to the north and blew during the whole night.

Wednesday, 3. We have traveled during nearly four hours across a very mountainous region and we camped at the foot of a very high mountain. I climbed up to its summit but I was not able to perceive anything at a great distance because a range of mountains surrounded us on all sides. I lost my telescope while descending and it has been impossible to find it. We have traveled in the direction of south.

Thursday, 4. After moving forward towards the south, we halted for the night on the slope of a little hill near a river which empties into the Missouri above the village of the Panis¹¹ at a distance of nearly five leagues from our last encamp-

ment. We crossed another little stream of water which empties into the Missouri about a mile below the Mandan village. The scouts reported that there were some buffalo in the neighborhood.

Friday, 5. We discovered a robber yesterday evening at the moment in which he seized a gun from among our baggage when he believed us sleeping. The chief sent two young men to spend the night near our tent and to look after our goods. After having traveled during three hours and a half in the direction of south, we perceived some buffalo and we all halted. The chief delivered a harangue and the young men set out on the hunt after which we covered about a league and a half and camped. There was neither brook nor river to furnish us with water; we found only a few stagnant puddles which the horses and dogs had made so thick and so muddy that it was not drinkable.

Saturday, 6. A savage Big Belly found my telescope and restored it to me. We left at eight o'clock; and at eleven o'clock the scouts reported that they had seen enemies. We all halted, the men armed themselves and mounting their horses very rapidly, rushed in pursuit of the last. They returned a few hours after, for the scouts had taken for enemies a part of their own men who had gone hunting.

After we were started on the way we camped at one o'clock on the bank of a little river which flows to the west and which empties in the little Missouri.¹² The wind blew into a tempest in the evening. Covered four leagues in the direction of south.

Sunday, 7. We raised camp at ten o'clock and at three o'clock we saw some buffalo. Some harangues were delivered to urge the young men to make the hunt, while a part of these last who made a guard of soldiers paraded before the body of people in order to prevent anyone from escaping before the departure of the hunters, after which we set out on the way again and camped at the foot of a mountain that we had in sight since

¹¹ The party camped on one of the sources of the Heart river near the mouth of which was the village of Panis or Pawnees.

¹² Probably Sand Creek in southwestern North Dakota.

the day before yesterday.¹³ Covered eighteen miles in the direction of southwest.

Monday, 8. Before raising camp a general enumeration of guns was made of which the total reached the figure of two hundred and four to the exclusion of ours. That day we covered nearly seven miles in the direction of south.

Tuesday, 9. The region covered from the village of the Big Bellies up to the place where I lost my telescope is very mountainous, then the ground without being entirely level is less hilly. The grass grows plentifully in the plains. While proceeding with our journey that day we passed between two great mountains on the summit of which we perceived buffalo in great numbers as far as the sight could reach. We camped on the edge of a little stream of water which flows toward the west and empties into the little Missouri.¹⁴ The savages hunted the buffalo and killed a great number. Nine miles covered in the direction of south-southwest and of southwest. The wind blew with violence during the night but we have not had any rain. Many tents are overturned although solidly attached to stakes.

Wednesday, 10. We passed the greatest part of the day where we camped the day before in order to dry the meat and bury a woman who died. We set out on the way at four o'clock in the afternoon and we set up the tents near a little stream of water which flows toward the west, after having covered five miles in the direction of south-west and of west. The region is mountainous but grass grows there abundantly and there are countless quantities of flowers of all kinds there.

Thursday, 11. We have crossed a chain of mountains of a width of nearly three miles and on their summits lies a pile of stones which appear to have been burned; a part of rock broken off from the mountains. We then crossed a plain level enough, then we camped near a little stream of water which flowed toward the northwest; we had covered about twelve miles and at this place

we perceived the little Missouri at the right, nearly four miles in the direction of southwest. We have seen a few rattlesnakes during the journey, but we have not encountered any of great size. These are the first that I have seen in the region of the savages and one does not find them moreover in the north.

Wednesday, 12. We have crossed a pleasant plain today and have set up our tents near a little course of water five miles southwest of our last encampment.

Saturday, 13. We set out at nine o'clock and after having crossed a region mountainous and dry, and crossed over two little streams of water, we arrived at noon on the banks of the Little Missouri. After having crossed it, we went to camp two miles higher on the edge of this stream of water. The width of this river, from one bank to the other, is nearly three-fourths of an acre;¹⁵ very little water passes there and in many places one sees the bottom which is made up of sand and gravel. A few sparse cotton-woods grow here and there on the edges. The elevations have a rough and dry look; they are made up of a whitish clay which resembles a rock in the distance. The ground on which we were camped was covered with a carpet of [- - - - - ?] thorny so thick that one did not know where to walk; this place is completely destitute of grass. In short the appearance of this region is far from being agreeable. We have covered twelve miles in the direction of south-southwest. A few days ago I gave several drops of Beaume de Turlington to a child that was suffering from colic and this remedy immediately cured it.¹⁶ This cure brought me such a reputation of a capable doctor that I am required to cure all those who are sick in camp. A man came today to ask for me to deliver his wife.

Sunday, 14. We passed the whole day at the place where we camped yesterday; the men dried the meat. I reascended the river as far as a certain distance and I verified traces of beaver.

¹³ Black Butte or HT. Butte.

¹⁴ Probably Deep Creek.

¹⁵ This expression of measurement does not appear in French dictionaries. It is probably an eighteenth century French-Canadian colloquism.

¹⁶ Burpee says this is an old English remedy.

Monday, 15. We have crossed the river three times today, when it barred the route that we were following in the direction of south-southwest and we camped on the bank fourteen miles higher.¹⁷ It has the same appearance on all reports as at the place where we saw it for the first time. The savages killed a few beavers and I had two prepared by my men in order to familiarize them with this work.

Tuesday, 16. We remained here today. The savages tried to dance the dance of the oxen in the manner of the Big Bellies but they succeeded very badly.

Wednesday, 17. It rained this morning, but at eleven o'clock the weather becoming fine, we set out on the way and covered nine miles following the river in the direction of south-southwest. The bed and the edges were made of solid rock and very little water flowed there. There are a few trees here on the slope of the hill.

Thursday, 18. I went hunting while the others were occupied in raising camp. We killed a buffalo and at three o'clock in the afternoon we returned to the side of the river where we found our men camped at fifteen miles to the southwest of our last encampment. The bed and the edges of the river are composed of rock; the plains are made up of an uninterrupted series of hills formed of rock of which the summit and the sides are partly covered with red pine and with some other varieties of wood, such as poplar, elm, ash and a kind of maple.¹⁸

Friday, 19. We halted an hour before sunset and we camped near the river after having remounted a distance of five miles.

Saturday, 20. Someone being sick, we remained here today. The edges of the river are pretty well extended and covered with wood such as the ash, the cottonwood, and a sort of bush which resembles a prickling ash and which produces a red fruit of the size of a little pea, a little sour to the taste but which is not disagreeable.¹⁹

Sunday, 21. The camp was raised at eight

o'clock in the morning and we followed the course of the river for a distance of fifteen miles in the direction of south-southwest. The bed and the edges of the river are formed of muddy soil. I saw a dead beaver on the bank. At this place it is possible to cross the river, without wetting oneself, by jumping on the large stones scattered in its bed. As we have trotted continually today, the baggage suffered such jerks on the back of the horses that my thermometer was broken. At this place we left the little Missouri on our left; at a greater distance it seemed to direct itself from the south to the north. We entered in a plain and at one o'clock in the afternoon after directing ourselves to the southwest, we camped on the edge of a little river which empties into the little Missouri.²⁰ We saw the banks of the little Missouri. We crossed two little streams of water; which are dried up at the time, but there are some deep pools where there are beaver. We saw a large number of buffalo today.

We remained two days at this place. I have been very sick for some time and so feeble that I could with difficulty hold myself on a horse. For this reason the savages have not set out on the way. I bought a few beaver.

Thursday, 25. We set out at ten o'clock this morning and after having followed the little stream of water near which we were camped, about a distance of four miles, in the direction of southwest, we camped. Wind from the southeast.

Friday, 26. We crossed a chain of mountains whose sides and summit were covered with pines.²¹ At the foot were many little streams of water well bordered with oaks and maple trees and in this place grew a large variety of mints which diffused an agreeable odor. We crossed three little streams of water which flowed in the direction of north and of northwest and flowed into the Powder river whose banks we perceived on the mountain tops. A very high

¹⁷ The party was ascending the Little Missouri.

¹⁸ The Bad Lands.

¹⁹ Probably the native barberry, *Barberis Vulgaris* Linnaeus, or buffalo berry, *Lepargyrea argentea*, identified by J. W. Severy.

²⁰ Boxelder creek.

²¹ The mountains east of Powder river in southeastern Montana called Blue Mud hills.

wind was blowing from northwest and a tempest rose during the night. We passed over a distance of twenty-two miles in the direction of west and crossed a very arid region.

Saturday, 27. At noon we reached Powder river after having traveled twenty miles during six hours in the direction of west-quarter-southwest. The width of the river is nearly three-fourths *acre* here; it is of an average depth but it seems to have risen lately for it is covered with leaves and with wood. Some large points covered with great trees projected in the river, but there is not any brush and as early as our arrival we perceived several herd of deer through the timber. There are beaver dams the whole length of the river and the savages had killed three of these animals.

Upon our arrival here, we ascertained that the plains on the west of the river were covered with buffalo and that on the banks were a large number of deer, antelopes, and of bears; the last are nearly entirely yellow and very ferocious.²² The region which extends between this place and the little Missouri is remarkably dry and there is scarcely any vegetation there except some "Cornes de Raquettes."²³ Our horses were weakened by hunger. There is some grass in the woods but the plains are destitute of it, and in fact, these must be considered as hills for although there is little timber there, it is impossible except in the neighborhood of the river to find a smooth plain of one or two miles extent. The current of the river is very strong and the water so muddy that it is scarcely drinkable. The savages say that it is always thus and that it is for this reason that they called the river Powder, for the wind rises and carries from the slope a fine sand which obscures and dirties the water. There are the whole length of the river considerable banks of sand, whose length and width cover many *acres*; the bottom is composed also of sand and this river flows in the direction of northeast.

Sunday, 28. We remained here during the

whole day in order to let the horses graze and the women have been greatly occupied in preparing the skins of the animals which were killed yesterday. I acquired three beaver skins and a bear skin.

Monday, 29. We raised camp this evening and went to set up our tents four miles higher after having proceeded in the direction of southwest.

Tuesday, 30. We set out early this morning. While everybody followed the river for a distance of seventeen miles in the direction of southwest, I went hunting with the chief and a few others. We wounded a kid, a buffalo, and an animal which had long horns, but we did not kill anything. The chief made the remark that someone had thrown some bad medicine on our guns and that if he succeeded in knowing him, the guilty would die for it.

The region is very mountainous in the neighborhood of the river but it does not seem to be as much toward the north. At nearly two miles from the encampment, from the west side of the river begins a chain of lofty mountains which extend to the north and seem about twenty miles long.²⁴ From the other side ran not distant the Tongue. A chain of hills separates the two rivers.

I made the ascent of a few very high mountains on the side of which I found a large number of shells of the variety *Cornu ammonys*, called by someone "Snake Shell," like a kind of bright stone lying on the surface of the soil. Apparently they were carried by the waters of rain which dissolved the soil in the neighborhood. They are of various sizes and shapes; they have the clearness and the lustre of a painting in water-colors and reflect with as much strength as a mirror of the same dimension. It is certainly these stones which have merited for this mountain the name of "Shining Mountain." The hills are rough, barren, made up of rock and on their summit or in the neighborhood of the latter are some layers of shifting red gravel which after having been washed by rains give to these places

²² Grizzly bears.

²³ Prickly pear, *Racquettes* refers to Indian fig, *Cornes* refers to the horn appearing arms bearing the edible fruit.—J. W. Severy.

²⁴ This description of the hills west of Powder river gives and exaggerated suggestion of their height.

a reddish color. On many hills are a mass of "calomid stone" in which I have found the pumice-stone a few times.

When we left the encampment this morning we were stopped by a party of warriors who did not wish to let us set out, because, they said, a general hunt taking place before, they feared that our departure might give alarm to the buffaloes. Nevertheless, the promise of the chief that we would hunt only in the neighborhood of the camp, and respect for my presence made them consent to let us set out but we were bound in order to avoid jealousy to steal away without being perceived.

Wednesday, 31. We set out at seven o'clock in the morning and after having gone up the river for a distance of thirteen miles in a southerly direction, we camped towards the middle of the day, because the wind blew from the south and it was very warm. I acquired a few beaver skins.

Thursday, August 1. Rain and thunder kept us from setting out today. The level of the river raised six inches and the water is as thick as mud. The current is not very strong.

Friday, 2. Last evening some shots were fired at a few children who were playing on the edge of the river a little distance from the camp. Alarm spread in the camp and guards were installed for the night but they did not discover anything. It rained abundantly during the greater part of the night. We raised camp at one o'clock in the afternoon and covered nine miles following the course of the river in a southerly direction. The hills on each side of the river are closer to each other than they were up to now. The banks or shores are neither as spread out nor as well covered with wood and the grass there has been completely eaten by buffalo and deer.

Saturday, 3. We set out at sunrise. The weather was beautiful, the wind blew from the southeast and we camped at one o'clock in the afternoon, after having marched in a southerly direction. We have, as usual, followed the course of the river whose bends are very sharp; these last do not exceed

two miles and several do not measure even one mile. The condition of the region indicates that we are approaching some large mountains and some sources of the river. A few antelope or roe have been slaughtered today. The last nights have been very cold.

Sunday, 4. We have not raised camp until late in the evening. This morning, after having mounted the hills which border the river, we saw the Rocky Mountains at a great distance with a small telescope;²⁵ we could easily distinguish the precipices and the crevasses as well as the trees scattered about on the rocks. We moved the camp four miles higher on the river after having traveled in the direction of southeast.

Monday, 5. Fog very thick this morning and the night has been so cold that I bought two buffalo skins because our cover would not preserve us enough against the cold to permit us to sleep. Nevertheless, the weather is very warm in the middle of the day. We set out on the way at seven o'clock; the wind blew from the northwest and we covered twelve miles while following the river in a southerly direction. We reached the place where the Pine river divides into two parts and flows thus over a distance of about a mile.²⁶ The water of this river which comes from the mountains a little ways off, is clear, excellent, and very cold, while that of the Powder river is so muddy that the savages have to hollow out a place on the bank in order to procure water for drinking. We have left this last river at our left in order to ascend the Pine river which flows on a bed of rock and of which the width is twenty to thirty rods. It is strewn with rapids and there is little timber on its banks.

Tuesday, 6. We raised camp at seven o'clock and covered twelve miles in the direction of southwest while ascending the Pine river. Before us are the Rocky Mountains which we have had in sight during the whole day. The wind blew from the northwest and the weather was foggy. A savage dangerously wounded the wife of another by firing on her in the chest. Jealousy impelled him to commit this act. They were occupied with this case at the time when I prepared

²⁵ The Bighorn range.

²⁶ Pine river is Clear creek in northern Wyoming, an affluent from the west of Powder river.

to set out. They seemed to desire that I go away. I had in my possession twenty-three beaver skins; in their opinion, that is a very large number and a great many more than we needed. They believed that after having seen the Rocky Mountains we would retrace our steps immediately for they can not understand that I can have the intention of discovering something there. It is very difficult to make them understand by signs alone, especially in this occurrence, because they do not wish to understand.

Wednesday, 7. We set out at six o'clock and after having traveled in the direction of south we set up our tents nine miles higher on the shore of the river. The savages hunted and killed many buffalo and a female came to take refuge among the horses where she was killed. At five o'clock in the evening we started out again on the way and after having traveled against the wind in the same direction as in the morning, we camped five miles higher.

Thursday, 8. We have covered twenty-four miles in the direction of southwest while following the course of the Pine river. Many little streams of water descend to empty there each a little distance from the other. A man and a horse were wounded by a bear but the wounds are not dangerous. There are a great many fruits in the neighborhood and bears in great number. Wind southeast. We camped here at the foot of the mountain.

Friday, 9. The savages have gone hunting and have returned with many skins which must be prepared for making tents. The weather is cloudy and the wind is from the south. The rapids are very frequent at this place in the river; the current is rapid between the latter and the bed of this river is made of rock.

Saturday, 10. A few savages have returned from the hunt and have brought back nine beaver skins which I obtained for beads. Same temperature as the day before.

Sunday, 11. They did not know what direction to take in setting out from here and for this reason it was decided to remain where we are up to the return of a party of young men sent to the west side of the mountains. They inquired often of our departure on the subject of which their anxiety

is great; they ask if I must leave them soon and today they were more troublesome than usual. What I have seen of their lands up to the present has not informed me of what I have to know on the subject of beavers. I told them that I would remain with them twenty or thirty days longer; that I desired greatly to see the Yellowstone river and the place where they resided usually, otherwise I would find it impossible to return and bring them what they needed. They were astonished that it was true but as to my ignorance of their land they resolved to dispel this objection by mustering some one among them to construct on a prepared skin, I believe, a very good map of their country on which they indicated to me the places where I could meet them at various seasons of the year. The only reason which makes them desire my departure is, I believe, their haste to receive the other objects that I have in my possession for we do not inconvenience in any way those whose tent serves us for shelter. Besides they claim to be attached to us, they treat us well and will lament, they say, when we shall leave them.

Monday, 12. The young men who had been sent to explore, have returned and report that there are a great many buffalo and fruits in abundance on the Little Horn river, that they have seen the place where their men who did not go to the Missouri were camped recently (nine huts), that they had crossed the mountains and had not seen any trace of enemies on the other side. Then they held council and harangues were delivered to the effect of raising camp the following morning and of going in the direction of the Yellowstone river.

Tuesday, 13. We set out on the route at half past eight in the morning. We advanced toward the west along the mountain across streams of water and mountains such that I have seen nothing similar before. As it is impossible to ascend these mountains with loaded horses we were obliged to turn them round halfway to the top where we ran great danger of rolling below, for they are so steep that the one side of the horse which carries the baggage grazes the side of the mountain. A false step of the horse would

certainly be fatal to the latter and to his rider. The wind which was blowing from the southeast turned to the northwest during the evening and the atmosphere is stifling. We camped at noon on a little tributary of the Tongue river whose water is very clear and cold as ice.²⁷ The savages killed two bears today. I acquired a few bear skins. I saw a few crows today and they are the only birds that I have met since my departure from the Missouri except a few woodpeckers.

Wednesday, 14. It rained during part of the afternoon. As soon as the rain ceased we set out on the way but it commenced to rain again and the rain fell without interruption up until our arrival at another branch of the Tongue river where we camped. We covered about ten miles in a westerly direction while following near the mountain and we crossed several little streams of water which all empty into the Tongue River. Most of these were dry and covered with a thick bed of white willow. There were no beaver dams but I saw a few cranes.

Thursday, 15. Weather beautiful and clear. I bought eight beaver skins and bought a horse for which I gave a gun, 200 bullets, a flannel garment, a shirt, a sharp hatchet, a battle-axe, an iron bow, a comb, a dagger-knife, a short knife, two "Wampoon hair pipes," a [- - - - -], two hatchets, "one Wampoon shell, 40 B. Blue Beads, two Mass Barley Corn do, Corn do" and six feet of "W. S. Red Stroud."²⁸ We set out from here at eleven o'clock and after having covered nine miles in the direction of northwest we camped on another branch of the Tongue river. Wind from the northwest, weather beautiful and warm. The savages killed some buffalo and a few bears; but they hunt the latter only to amuse themselves for they eat their flesh only when they are impelled by necessity. Everybody is now enjoying the position of a bear that they made penetrate in a thicket; after having placed him in anguish for a long time they killed him. They rarely remove the skin of this animal.

Friday, 16. I bought a saddle and a bridle for the horse which I acquired yesterday, and in return I gave powder for forty shots, for few bullets remained to me. "I gave 20 pounds of powder for a beaver only; 1 knife, I sell 2 beavers; 10 string blue beads, 1 beaver and so on." We covered fifteen miles in the direction of northwest while following the mountain as usual; we crossed three little streams of water which empty into the Tongue river where we arrived at one o'clock in the afternoon. We crossed it at the ford and camped on the north side. On the north and northeast side between this river and the Big Horn river is a small mountain which they call Wolf Teeth²⁹ (*Se la* in the language of the Rocky Mountains and *Seja* in that of the Big Bellies). Fine weather, wind from the northwest.

Saturday, 17. The savages having hunted yesterday, camp has not been raised and we have spent the day here. There were many bears in the neighborhood drawn by the wild cherries and the other fruits that there are here. The banks of the river are covered with bear dung as the approaches of a stable are with cattle manure. A great number of cherry trees of great height are broken by these animals. The savages kill one or two of them nearly every day. The Tongue river is narrow here; its width is about twenty feet and its depth two feet in the deepest part of the rapids. It descends to empty into the Yellowstone river and many little streams of water descend to empty on its way. There are some points of land spread out sufficiently and well furnished with wood, to know: and of maples.

Sunday, 18. We left at seven o'clock and went toward the north. At noon we stopped on a branch of the Little Horn river and the greater part of the savages went back as far as this last to hunt. We set out again at half past two in the afternoon and after having crossed the river we camped on the other bank where we found those who had gone hunting well supplied with fresh meat. We covered fifteen miles today and although

²⁷ The road was over the foothills of the Bighorn range and the camp was probably a short distance west of the present Sheridan, Wyoming.

²⁸ The meaning of Mass Barley Corn is uncertain. Strouds were large flannel coverings made mostly in England.

²⁹ Wolf mountain.

we are still in the neighborhood of the mountain, we are a little more distant than usual.

Monday, 19. Since we have been in the neighborhood of the mountains, many women have deserted with their lovers to disappear toward their fine tents on the other side. There are neither any animals in the mountains nor on the other side, and for this reason, they are not inclined to take this direction, although the desertion of their women drew them there strongly. Harangues were delivered twice to the effect of raising camp and a counter-order was given before the tents were folded. This misunderstanding was caused by the desertion of the wife of "Spotted Crow" who directs our route, for the latter wished us to go on one side while the chief of the other bands wished us to go on the other. Since I have been with them the jealousy has been because the horses have been killed and the women have been wounded. A Snake Indian killed his wife with a shot to-day and it seems that he was not without reason, for it is the third time, they say, that he has found her with her seducer. The Little Horn river flows to the east [west] of the mountain³⁰ and forms at the place where we are a bend north quarter northeast, then twisting around the "Wolf Teeth," it empties into the Big Horn river. The bed of the river is formed of rock, the water which flows there in a continual rapid is clear and cold as ice. The ground is dry and on the banks of the river is a little wood of the same kinds that we have already mentioned. I purchased six beavers.

Tuesday, 20. We set out in the direction of west and after covering three miles, we camped in a magnificent place where there was grass in abundance for the horses. I purchased three beavers.

Wednesday, 21. I made presents of several articles to the chief and to several other important persons. We passed the whole day here. There were a great many ash trees here and nearly everybody profited by manufacturing whip handles. It is for this reason that they came to this place, for ash is rarely found elsewhere. I noticed beaver dams on this river.

³⁰ The Littlehorn is west of Wolf mountain and the Rosebud range.

³¹ Word omitted probably Littlehorn.

Thursday, 22. Last night a bed of ice of the thickness of paper formed on the water accumulated in the hollows left by the passage of the horses. I was called to a council held under the tent of the chief's brother, "Spotted Crow" has abandoned the post of directing our route and an aged man is charged with this task. The latter told me he intended to follow the usual route which led to the Yellowstone river. I purchased eight beaver from the Snake savages who had in their possession a boiler or pot manufactured out of one solid stone. This vessel which was one and one-half inches thick and would hold about two gallons had been manufactured without any instrument except a piece of iron.

Friday, 23. We raised camp at eleven o'clock in the morning, and after traveling a mile in the direction of northeast "N. O. 6 de," we camped on one of the branches of the river - - - - -³¹ where there were beaver dams and other traces of these mammifer. I purchased four beaver. Wind in the southeast. The only places where it is possible to cross the mountains is at the sources of this river and of the Tongue river.

Saturday, 24. This morning we were alarmed by news that three savages had been perceived on the foremost part of the mountain, that three buffalo were pursued and that two shots had been heard from the direction of the Big Horn river. Thirty men saddled their horses and set out immediately to make a report of what was happening, while the others held themselves ready to follow in case of necessity. Some one returned at the end of a few hours and reported that they had seen thirty-five persons on foot advancing on the shore of one of the branches of the Big Horn river. In less time than it takes to tell it, all had left the camp and with the exception of a few old men and some women, the rest dashed to the pursuit. I accompanied them but as all could not set out at the same time nor hold together for some horses were slower than others, the most advanced ceased galloping on an elevation and set their horses at a moderate trot while the others advanced. The dance took place when the chief arrived.

The latter and his band or one part of this last passed twice at a gallop before the front of the mass which continued to advance at a trot, in order to stop the rush of the latter while one of the friends of the chief, his aide-de-camp I suppose, delivered a harangue. All were dressed in their best clothes. A great number were accompanied by their wives who carried their arms and were obliged to deliver them at the time of the battle. There were also many children but these could hold themselves in the saddle. Before us, several young men reined in on different elevations and indicated to us by signs from what side we should direct ourselves. After the arrival of all the chiefs who delivered harangues, each dashed immediately in pursuit on the side where his instinct called. The region is very mountainous and furrowed with large streams of water whose banks are bordered with rock, which permitted those who were pursued to shelter themselves in the places where it was impossible to penetrate with the horses and catch them there. All escaped with the exception of two of the most advanced, who sent as spies, had drawn nearer to us than the others without perceiving us. After a long pursuit they were surrounded then killed and scalped in the twinkling of an eye. When I arrived near to the body, I ascertained that the scalp and the fingers on the right hand had been taken off and that those who had done the trick had left. They borrowed my hunting knife to cut off the left hand and returned it to me all covered with blood as witness of esteem and expressed to me the desire "to [. . . . ?] at him." Men, women, and children crowded to see the cadavers and taste of the blood. Each desired to poignard the corpse to show what he would have done if he had met them living and to pour out then on these remains insult and outrage in a horrible language. In a little while it became difficult to recognize in this debris the form of a human body. All the young men had attached a piece of flesh to their gun or on their spears, then they retook, while singing, the route to the camp and showed their trophies with pride to all the young persons they met. A few women had an entire limb suspended from

their saddle. The spectacle of such inhumanity made me shiver with horror and the sentiments that I had felt in setting out had made place for a state of mind very different.

Sunday, 25. The scalp dance absorbed the entire night and the scalps have been promenaded in procession during the day.

Monday, 26. It rained this morning as yesterday, but at noon the weather becoming fine, we set out in the direction of southwest. Fine weather, wind in the southeast. We camped in the mountains nine miles from our last encampment on a little river in which little water was passing but where there were beaver dams in great numbers. The young men have paraded the whole day with the scalps attached to the bridle of their horses, singing and marching in time to the sound of the drum and the Sheshequois or rattle.

Tuesday, 27. We spent the whole day here. Ten young men have been sent to observe the movements of those who were put to flight recently, for they fear an attack after having noticed traces of a numerous party on the Big Horn river. In the evening the news arrived that the buffalo were in flight on the Big Horn river and harangues were delivered to the effect of mounting guard about the camp.

Wednesday, 28. Two hours before the day the savages saddled their horses which they placed at the doors of their tents, and after having placed all their little children on horseback and fastened them to the saddles, they slept the remainder of the night. They also loaded a few horses with their most valuable objects, while in the expectation of an attack, they were seated in their tents with their arms in their hands and their horses saddled at the door. When the day appeared nothing had happened, they lifted down their children and unloaded their horses. Four young men arrived at nine o'clock and reported that they had not found any trace of an enemy, but there was a large number of buffalo between the Big Horn river and the Yellowstone river.

Thursday, 29. We raised camp this morning and have traveled in the direction of west quarter northwest. The chiefs have

delivered continual harangues during the whole night, harangues which with the song and the dance make sleep impossible. We erected tents at about twenty miles from our last encampment, on a little stream of water which empties into the Big Horn river.²²

Friday, 30. After covering about five miles in a westerly direction, we camped on the Big Horn river a little distant from the foot of the mountains and very high rocks.

Saturday, 31. We have spent the day in the same place. A few young men sent as scouts have come back from an abandoned camp which was composed of thirty huts where they found the clothing of a chief, "N. B. Straud" some shell necklaces and other articles which seem to have been left behind in a sudden fright by those who had occupied the tents. Such is the opinion of the savages on this subject, but I believe that these objects have rather been presented to the supreme being as an offering that savages often make; they collect these objects in three well-wrapped packages and these are the packages that our young men have found. This river is large and deep; the water is clear and the current is strong. Its bed is composed of stones and gravel and at a half mile from camp, it flows between two large rocks where it gains proportionally in depth the two-thirds that it loses in width. The river was not at first at this place for the rocks overhang it perpendicularly. The sensation of dizziness felt while surveying the river from the summit of these rocks is frightful. The latter appears fairly narrow and flows with great rapidity under our feet. I did not venture to look at the frothing water without having a stone for support in order not to fall. This river does not take its source in these mountains, it crosses the mountains and comes from a neighboring mountain chain. At thirty or forty miles above this place there is in this river a fall where ruled a Manitou or devil. The savages say that it is a wolf-man who lives in the fall and goes out of it to devour every person or beast which approaches very near. They claim that it is impossible to

kill him because he is ball-proof. I found a ram horn while walking along the river, of a length of five spans and which weighed a great deal. It seems that the animal which wore it must have died of old age for the small end was used a great deal and separated into many fragments, which I have not observed with any of these animals which have been killed and where horns have not attained this length.

These mountains here are made up of solid rock; the greatest part is dry and bare, with the exception of a few places where there are a few red pines. The sides of certain "coulees" are as smooth and perpendicular as a wall and of an extra-ordinary height. These perpendicular rocks enclose at certain places breaks which sometimes resemble the niches where they place statues, sometimes church doors or vaults. In short, the whole is great and impressive. On certain parts of these rocks are presented to the gaze some admirable pictures but the highest places are inaccessible. One there sees the Big Horn river wind across a level plain of about three miles width and can follow its course for a great distance, not far from its point of meeting with the Yellowstone.²³

Sunday, September 1. We left this place and went to erect our tents three miles lower where we spent two days. There arrived here a savage Snake who had been absent since spring and had seen a part of his tribe who had made some exchanges with the Spaniards. He brought back a Spanish bridle, a battle-axe, a large cover striped with white and black and a few other articles. A Big Belly has done the fishing here and in a little while he has taken fourteen medium catfish.

The scalps have still given place to a great many dances. There are several islands in the river here but the greater part are only heaps of sand. Across the points covered with woods which project in the river one perceives the plain where there is a great deal of wood at certain places. The leaves are beginning to fall.

Wednesday, 4. We set out on the way in

²² Black Canyon creek.

²³ This description is of the Bighorn canyon from its lower end. This is the first and one of the most vivid descriptions of this gorge.

the direction of northwest and after having covered fifteen miles we have set up the tents on a little stream of water which empties into the Big Horn river. After turning aside from the river we crossed a level plain four or five miles, then we encountered a region mountainous and dry.³⁴

Thursday, 5. We followed the same direction as the day before and camped on a very small stream of water which was like the former and emptied in the same river.

Friday, 6. We raised camp early and arrived at eleven o'clock at the Mampoa or Shot Stone river³⁵ from which the savages set out for the hunt, for we had seen a great number of buffalo while arriving here. The mountains hereafter are located as follows:

To the southeast that which we have followed from setting out from the Pine river; to the south the mountain called Amanchabe, Clje and to the southwest the Boa mountains (or Bod). This last was scarcely perceptible because of a thick fog which enveloped it.

Saturday, 7. We remained here during the whole day. The women used the time to dry the tongues and the best parts of the meat and to prepare the skins for a great festival which is to take place. At the same time they celebrate their feats of war.

Sunday, 8. I set out early this morning with two savages in order to visit the Yellowstone river and the surrounding parts. I intended to return then seeing that the savages must take a route very indirect to go back to this place. We were not yet half-way when we encountered some buffalo and my guides set out to hunt with so much ardor that they did not lead me where I wished to go. We returned to the camp in the evening with some meat, but we had to travel in the rain for it had rained from noon to evening. The savages showed me a mountain and told me that this was located in the direction of the falls in the Missouri and that it was not very distant.³⁶ We noticed at certain places recent indications of two encampments of savage strangers. At the door of the largest tent there were seven

bundles of sticks. As each bundle contained ten sticks it followed that the camp was composed of seventy tents.

Monday, 9. I bought a horse. The news arrived that four strangers have been seen, that these last have ascertained our presence and have hidden. A young man arrived in the evening; he had met a Big Belly of the "fort de prairie" with whom he communed (I can not say that they talked to each other, since one did not understand the language of the other and the conversation took place by signs). They tried each one to make the other follow to their respective camps, but fear hindered the two men from making this step. The Big Bellies are camped on the Big Horn river behind the mountain. They occupy 275 to 300 huts and it is with friendly sentiments that they came in this region.

Tuesday, 10. The camp was raised at nine o'clock and we turned in the direction of the northwest toward the Yellowstone river where we arrived at two o'clock in the afternoon after having covered sixteen miles. We went up to a large island on which we camped. The current of this beautiful and great river is very great; the savages say that there are not any falls there. It is difficult to find fordable places although the water is at its lowest level there. The surroundings are spread out and well covered with woods.

Wednesday, 11. Five Big Bellies arrived and came to our hut which is that of the chief. They brought words of peace from part of their nation and said that they came in order to procure some horses. The savages received them well and made them a present of miscellaneous articles. They told me that last winter they traded with Mr. Donald whom he designated to me as "Crooked-Arm."³⁷ I made a turn of the island on which we were camped; it was five miles in circumference and some parts on the north side are abundantly covered with wood. The beaver have pulled down a stretch of wood of nearly fifty feet. The occupants of nine cabins, which were left

³⁴ The route was along the northern slopes of Pryor mountains.

³⁵ Pryor creek.

³⁶ The falls were more than two hundred miles in a direct line.

³⁷ John McDonald called "Bras Croche" by Indians and traders because of his deformity.—Burpee.

here last spring have joined the others; they have fifteen tents today. They were camped on the side opposite from the river.

Thursday, 12. I purchased six fat beaver from the Snake savages. We crossed the island on the west side of the river, then we covered nine miles while reascending in the direction of southwest and we camped on a point where they usually prepared "their fall medicine."

Friday, 13. I bought a bow of horn, some arrows, a saddle and "plichimon,"^{ss} a part of a tent and some blue glass beads that they received from the Spaniards and to which they attached such a value that they exchanged a horse for one hundred of these beads.

Saturday, 14. After having visited the lands of the Crow savages in order to ascertain if there were beaver as had been reported and having pledged the latter to make the hunt conformably with the instructions of Mr. Chabolliez, I am preparing to retrace my steps. I assembled the chiefs in council and after smoking I informed them that I was going to set out, that I was contented with them and with their conduct in my regard and that I should return among them the following autumn. I asked them to kill beaver and bear during the whole winter because I would return to trade with them and to furnish them that of which they had need. I told them other things yet in order to convince them that they would reap profits by hunting beaver, afterwards we were occupied with the means of knowing how to recognize each other next fall and of knowing how I should find them again. It was arranged that if I did not meet them on the island upon my arrival, I should return on the mountain called Amanchabe Chije where I would light four different fires in four days in succession and then they would come to rejoin us (for the mountain is very high and a fire can be perceived at a great distance), but only four among them would come and if a very large number advanced, we must hold ourselves on the defensive for they would be other savages. In case I should light less than three fires, they will not come because they will believe that en-

emies are there. They told me that during the winter one could always find them at the place where a park is at the foot of the mountain or in the neighborhood. In spring and fall they are always on this river and in summer on the Tongue and the Horse rivers.

I have in my possession one hundred and twenty-two beaver skins, four bear skins and two otter skins that I bought not in consideration of what they were worth (because they are all summer skins) but in order to show to the savages the value that I attach to the beaver skins and to the goods that we give them). With the presents that I made them I believe that I have succeeded in gaining their good-will.

I have never given them anything without making them understand that I expected something in return. If we had given them more they would have thought that we had merchandise in great abundance and would (not) have accorded any worth to the latter. The savages who have met some whites will be more satisfied to receive a few articles only, for they attach little price or any worth to that which is given them too liberally. That is why I bought their bear skins and at the same time I wished to be able to prove that there are beaver in this region without counting that it was advantageous to distribute our goods to those who merited them the most, that is to say the least lazy.

We set out at two o'clock with two chiefs who accompanied us nearly eight miles when we stopped to smoke the calumet of farewell. They then embraced us and after we shook hands, we separated. They followed us at a distance nearly as far as a mile, gradually slackening their gait. They wept or made an appearance of weeping and when we were nearly out of sight they turned their back on us and went back. At the moment of departure they promised us that none of their young men would follow us and after having taken heaven and earth to witness their sincerity, they said that they had listened attentively to my words and they would do what I had asked them. They made me swear in the same way that I

^{ss} Blanket.

would return and that I had said nothing untrue (certainly I had not then and I have not today the intention of violating my oath, for if I do not keep the promises that I made them it will not be my fault).

We traveled twenty miles in the direction of the northeast. A little before sunset we were surprised by a storm which forced us to regain a point of the river where we camped and spent the night. Our horses have been frightened and it was with difficulty that we succeeded in collecting them. We were on the watch during the night.

Sunday, 15. We traveled in the direction of northeast and after having crossed the Yellowstone river at nine o'clock, we continued our route on the south bank. At ten o'clock we crossed the Manpoa river at the place where it empties into the Yellowstone river. The Manpoa river or Short Storm has a width of nearly ten feet and very little water passes there. It takes its source at a little distance in 'Amanabe Chief' and there is wood all along its banks especially near the mountain. There are beaver on the east side of this river and near the place where it empties into the Yellowstone river is a whitish perpendicular rock on which was sketched with red soil a battle between three people on horseback and three others on foot.²⁰ At two o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at a high mountain situated on the side of the river that the natives called Erplan Macolie; we stopped there to rest our horses and we killed a female buffalo. We set out again an hour before sunset and it was night when we camped without making a fire for fear of being uncovered by horse-thieves or enemies. From Manpoa up to this place we followed the direction of east. We saw buffalo and deer in great quantity. Wind from the southwest.

Monday, 16. Froze hard last night. Cloudy weather. Nine miles in the direction of northeast. We stopped to cook some nourishment for the day, for we do not make a fire at night. Buffalo and deer in great quantity. It rained up to three o'clock in the afternoon when the weather became beautiful, we happened to camp near the

rocks of the Big Horn river where we arrived at eight o'clock in the evening.

Wednesday, 17. This morning we crossed the river early. The points here are large, splendid, and abundantly covered with wood. We have passed across an abominable region and have despaired more than once of leaving it, for we encountered some rocks there that it was impossible to climb over or to twist around. So that we were obliged to retrace our steps in order to follow another route where we encountered the same difficulties. Finally we climbed the mountain, but once on the summit of the latter our position was scarcely more encouraging, for it was often necessary for us to unload our horses and carry the baggage ourselves, next to make our nimble horses cross the rocky [ravines], making them skirt the precipices and running the danger of losing them. Finally at three o'clock in the afternoon we left our bad situation and over the edge of a rock we could see level ground before us, but the sun set before we had discovered a practical way to effect our descent. We had to unload our horses again and carry our baggage over a part of the route, while the horses continued crossing about twenty-five verges by letting themselves slide on the rump. We broke a few of our saddles and we regained the plain at the time at which the day appeared, afterward we camped a little more distant on the bank of a river. Probably if we had had a guide we would have escaped these rocks, whereas our ignorance of route led us there and once involved in this dilemma, it was as difficult to go back as to advance. We have not followed the direction determined, for in order to extricate ourselves we have had to travel in all directions. We killed a deer.

Wednesday, 18. This morning we perceived nine miles to the south the wood-covered points where we camped last night; we were separated from it by the river on one side and by the rocks on the other. I heard the sound of the falls or Great Rapids yesterday, but I find myself at present too distant from the river and too busy to return to this place. It froze very hard last night

²⁰ The next year Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition named this "Pompey's Pillar."

and we left our encampment later than usual, because our horses were tired, but once on the way, we stopped, only after sunset. We covered twenty-two miles in the direction of east and wind blew from the southwest. Beautiful weather; buffalo and deer in great number.

Thursday, 19. The weather is cold and cloudy. Twenty-two miles covered in the same direction as the day before. We stopped at two o'clock in the afternoon and killed a deer which was not worth much because the warm season had begun. We set out on the route in the direction of northeast and after having covered eight miles we camped for the night.

Friday, 20. We set out early today. We climbed the hills which are rough and dry and we covered thirty-six miles in the direction of northeast. We killed a large [. . .] Fine weather; wind in the northeast.

Saturday, 21. The way being very bad, we descended to the river in the hope of finding a better passage there, but the latter coming up with the rock at each of its bends, we had to reascend the hill and painfully pursue our route across the rocks. After sunset we camped on the Tongue river where we killed two deer which were very fat. Direction of east for eighteen miles; wind from the northeast.

Sunday, 22. We crossed the Tongue river and passed over a plain nine miles wide, after which we encountered rocks and precipices without number which we had to cross, afterward we camped two hours before sunset, on the bank of the river near a rapid. There was little or no wood here along the river, with the exception of a few cottonwood scattered here and there and grass was completely lacking. Direction of northeast for nearly eighteen miles; wind from the southwest.

Monday, 23. We crossed a plain tolerably level today. We have covered twelve miles in the direction of west and twenty-four miles more in the direction of northeast. At ten o'clock we crossed Powder river; there was not any wood on its banks here, the water is still muddy and a great deal less deep than at the place where we crossed

while going. We camped in the evening near a little stream of water and as we had not found grass for our horses during the day, we had to cut down three cottonwoods and make them eat the bark.

Tuesday, 24. We set out early. At nine o'clock we found a place where there was grass and stopped there in order to let our horses eat. We set out in the saddle at three o'clock in the afternoon and camped after sunset, having covered thirteen miles in the direction of east. Beautiful weather; wind from the southwest. It is the fourth night that it has not frozen.

Wednesday 25. We crossed a region very rough, but as there were not any rocks we followed our route without too much difficulty and camped in the evening on a great point of woods where there were a great many deer. We covered thirty-seven miles today in the direction of north and as we had seen something which resembled a man creep on the bank, we were on the look-out during the night. The plains are on fire and the wind carries on our side columns of smoke so thick that we can scarcely distinguish about us. As the continuous walk of our horses on loose stones since last spring has made them lame from the effect of wounds in their feet which bled sometimes, we had to use fresh deerskin in order to protect their hoofs peeled to the quick.

Thursday, 26. We ascertained this morning that what we saw yesterday in the evening and which had appeared to us a man, was a bear for we saw its tracks. We set out at eight o'clock and as the plain is level we advanced at a great pace, then our provisions being exhausted, we set out at two o'clock to kill a female buffalo. We set out on our way again at three o'clock and killed a she-bear which was eating [. . .] on our route. We removed the skin which is good and at five o'clock halted to camp.

The river divides here in several ramifications which form as many islands. The latter and the banks of the river are abundantly covered with forests which are composed exclusively of cottonwoods, of oaks, and maples. We crossed thirty-nine miles in the direction of north and the wind which

was against us carried abundant smoke. We saw a large number of deer and buffalo today.

Friday, 27. We crossed a plain of about six miles after which we encountered a bend of the river where it became impossible to follow our route along the plain. We had to descend to the river into the shallow parts where we bemired three of our horses that we disengaged only at the price of great difficulty. We stopped at one o'clock to let the horses eat and as the wind was blowing from the south we did not suffer from smoke but it looked like rain. We found grass in abundance and camped at sunset after having covered twenty-four miles in the direction of north.

Saturday, 28. The weather has been fine and we have traveled over a level region during this whole day. We have covered thirty miles in the direction of north and have ascertained undeniably traces of three encampments of savages, who must be warriors for they have no tents.

Sunday, 29. We crossed a very beautiful and pleasant region and the banks of the river are abundantly covered with wood. Since our departure from the Missouri, I have found no part with more beautiful grass and with the result that buffalo are there in great number. Wind from the northwest; weather cold and cloudy. After covering thirty miles in the direction of north-northeast we camped on a little stream of water.

Monday, 30. We climbed the height on which splendid grass grew in abundance. From there we perceived the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. Direction, northeast; twenty-seven miles. We descended afterwards to the river (the Missouri) which formed only a bend. We had followed this for a distance of seven miles when we heard a gun fired twice and the voice of a woman who seemed to mourn. We stopped and Morrison was sent to scout while Souci and I remained to watch over the horses and goods. Morrison came back at the end of about two hours and we learned that we had taken the cries of a young cub bear for the voice of a woman, afterward we supposed that the sound we took for the discharge of a gun, had been caused by the

fall of trees overturned by a very violent wind, for the buffalo, the deer, and the bears were quiet in the woods and on the plain, nothing indicated the presence of a human being in the neighborhood. We then climbed hills in order to avoid a great bend of the river and after having covered eleven miles in the direction of the east we camped for the night on a large point covered with elms. The wind blew from the northwest with great violence and at every instant pulled up trees with their roots.

Wednesday, October 1. Cloudy weather; it rained from time to time, wind from the northwest very cold; twelve miles in the direction of north. In crossing a coulee yesterday, I found some cabins constructed like those of the Mandans and Big Bellies (who must have constructed those that are here) and which were hemmed in by a small fort. They seemed to have been constructed three or four years ago but they have not been inhabited during the past winter. On the outside of the fort there was a kind of stable for the horses. There were many buffalo heads in the fort and several were painted red.

Wednesday, 2. Weather cold and cloudy, strong wind from the northwest. Direction of northeast; twenty-six miles. We killed a female buffalo. The country is level and grass is plentiful there.

Thursday, 3. We set out on the way at seven o'clock across a mountainous region. Twenty miles in the direction of northeast and fifteen in the direction of east and we camped on the river. Very cold wind from the northwest; it rained during a part of the day.

Friday, 4. It rained and the weather has been bad during the whole night. It began to snow at dawn and the snow fell in abundance up to two o'clock in the afternoon. Very violent wind from the northwest. We looked for our horses during the whole day without success and it was only after sunset that we found them, because the bad weather had driven them into the forest.

Saturday, 5. We set out early. Direction south-quarter south-east; twenty-six miles. Buffalo in great quantity on both sides of the river. We killed a female buffalo.

Sunday, 6. All the little streams of water and the pools were frozen this morning. Direction south-quarter south-east, twenty miles. Toward the fourth mile we crossed a very thick forest.

Monday, 7. Two miles in the direction of the east and eleven in that of south. We arrived at the little Missouri which we crossed. Three miles in the direction of southeast. We saw a great number of bears and skunks.

Tuesday, 8. We climbed some hills. Level plains; direction of south-southeast; thirty-nine miles. Weather fine and warm; wind from the southwest.

Wednesday, 9. We advanced over the hills across a beautiful region; direction east-quarter south-east, twelve miles, afterwards two miles in the direction of south and we arrived at the home of the Big Bellies who were camped three miles above their village. I found a letter here which Mr. Charles McKenzie had directed to me.

Thursday, 10. I remained here the whole day in order to let the horses rest before returning to the Assiniboine river. The savages told me among other things, that there are fourteen small American boats below the villages which are reascending toward this place.⁴⁰ The Sioux killed eight whites on the St. Pierre river last spring and killed three Big Bellies here.

Friday, 11. I intended to cross the river today, but the strength of the wind which blew from the northwest during the whole day with great violence, prevented it. I had a few pairs of shoes made and had some maize ground which must serve us for nourishment. We were informed that the Sioux are camped lower not far from here. Expecting to be attacked they (The Big Bellies) passed the whole night with the arms in hand.

Saturday, 12. At about noon the weather becoming calm and fine, we crossed the river and the horses which had to make the whole distance by swimming were nearly exhausted. We encountered three Assiniboines with their wives on the north side of the river, they went to the home of the Big Bellies to trade.

We walked slowly up until sunset when we camped on the bank of a little lake situated in the plains which are on fire on the west. Direction north.

Sunday, 13. Fine weather, wind from the northwest. A great quantity of [.] buffaloes make their sudden appearance in the plain; they are in every direction. The latter being on the march, we could not approach them sufficiently to fire on them and I did not decide to pursue them with our tired and jaded horses. We crossed the place where the fire was at sunset and we camped near a little lake whose banks had escaped the conflagration.

Monday, 14. Fear of the Assiniboines whose tracks we found last evening obliged us to watch over our horses during the whole night. We set out before sunrise and at ten o'clock in the morning we reached the Mouse river where we spent the rest of the day. Here the grass on the banks of the river has not been burned, but from both sides we see the fire in the distance. Direction west and north. The buffalo commenced to be restless early in the evening on the north side of the river, which made us fear for our horses.

Tuesday, 15. It was dark when we left our encampment last evening and we traveled for two hours by starlight up until the latter made us make a mistake through the effect of the clouds which obscured the sky and prevented us from following our direction. We stopped on the bank of a little stream of water where we spent the night without anxiety.

We set out again the next morning. Weather cold and cloudy; wind from the northwest. We stopped to spend the night on the Deep river which ought not be called a river, for it proceeds only from a [.] sunken where are some deep little pools which communicate with one another in spring and during rainy seasons only; nothing grows there and one can not even find a twig there. It began to rain at sunset and rained without intermission during the whole night. We availed ourselves of a piece of tent to cover our goods and spent

⁴⁰ This is the only evidence of Americans in this region at this time. Lewis and Clark were then approaching the Columbia on their journey west.

the whole night shivering with cold around a little fire kept up with cow dung (which we had been careful to pick up before it began to rain) while availing ourselves of our saddles by way of a cloak to protect us.

Wednesday, 16. It snowed, rained, and hailed during the whole day. Very violent wind from the northwest. It was dark when we reached the woods of one of the Elk Head rivers wet to the bone and completely benumbed by the cold.

Thursday, 17. Cloudy weather. As the wind which blows from the northwest is very cold we had to stop to build a fire in order to warm ourselves, without counting that we were far from being clad sufficiently to withstand the cold. After enveloping ourselves in buffalo skins we took the route of the "Grand Coule" and camped at the same

place where we had had a quarrel with the Assiniboines the past spring.

Friday, 18. We encountered this morning a few Assiniboines who were coming back from the Fort and stopped us to smoke the peace pipe with them. They told us that the Mont a' la Bosse [fort] had been evacuated and that Mr. Falcon was building a house in order to spend the winter there about mid-way between the latter place and "R. qu'il appelle Fort." Afterward we arrived at Mont a' la Bosse Fort where I found Mr. Charles McKenzie and three men charged with taking care of what remained.

I spent a day here and then I went to see Mr. Falcon at Grand Bois situated fifteen miles above this place. I came back the next day and set out for the Big Mouse river where I arrived October 22. Thus ends this journal of my trip to the Rocky Mountains.

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